

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy
4:1-2, 6-8

Moses said to the people: 'Now, Israel, take notice of the laws and customs that I teach you today, and observe them, that you may have life and may enter and take possession of the land that the Lord the God of your fathers is giving you. You must add nothing to what I command you, and take nothing from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God just as I lay them down for you. Keep them, observe them, and they will demonstrate to the peoples your wisdom and understanding. When they come to know of all these laws they will exclaim, "No other people is as wise and prudent as this great nation." And indeed, what great nation is there that has its gods so near as the Lord our God is to us whenever we call to him? And what great nation is there that has laws and customs to match this whole Law that I put before you today?'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/. The just will live in the presence
of the Lord.*

SECOND READING

A reading from the Letter of St James
1:17-18, 21-22, 27

It is all that is good, everything that is perfect, which is given us from above; it comes down from the Father of all light; with him there is no such thing as alteration, no shadow of a change. By his own choice he made us his children by the message of the truth so that we should be a sort of first-fruits of all that he had created. Accept and submit to the word which has been planted in you and can save your souls. But you must do what the word tells you, and not just listen to it and deceive yourselves. Pure, unspoilt religion, in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it, and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!
The Father gave us birth by his message of truth,
that we might be as the first fruits of his creation.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
7:1-7, 14-15, 21-23

The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus, and they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the market place they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing of cups and pots and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?' He answered, 'It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture:

'This people honours me only with lip-service,
while their hearts are far from me.
The worship they offer me is worthless,
the doctrines they teach are only human regulations.'

You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.' He called the people to him again and said, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. For it is from within, from men's hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and make a man unclean.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

KNOX DEANERY

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Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

1st / 2nd September, 2018

*Heavenly Father,
You entrusted Your Son Jesus,
to the care of Joseph, an earthly father.
Bless all fathers, as they care for their families.
Give them strength and wisdom,
tenderness and patience;
and support them in all they do,
to protect those who look to them. Amen.*

**Happy
FATHER'S
Day**

FOCUS ON THE READINGS

Jesus would have read with pride and appreciation the praise of the Law set out in the First Reading, Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8, and understood it to be what the Hebrew word 'Torah', which we inadequately translate as 'law', really means: not primarily a legal code but 'a light that shows the way'. Like a torch that lights up a path on a dark night, for Jewish people the Torah is a body of wisdom and enlightenment showing how to live as God's covenant people. No matter how good the intention, sometimes misguided principles can and do lead to false action. This is what Jesus disciplined the Pharisees about. The practices they'd established to try and help people honour the Torah had effectively replaced it. The purpose of the tradition had become lost. Jesus placed such a high price on integrity of word and action he could not abide those who proclaimed to be just, pious or forgiving and yet acted in ways that were contrary to these claims. His chastisement of the Pharisees – calling them hypocrites – was a challenge to their observation of external practices and rituals instead of seeking to understand the Torah as a call to a change of heart.

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

3rd Sept – St Gregory the Great, pope, doctor

7th Sept – Spring Ember Day – Special Day of Prayer & Penance

8th Sept – The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

I have come that you may have life and have it to the full

(John 10:10)

PARISH PRIEST:
Fr Alan Fox 9758 1029
Email: Alan.Fox@cam.org.au

DEACON:
Rev. Peter Stringfellow 9758 1029
Email: Peter.Stringfellow@cam.org.au

FAITH DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATOR:
Carolyn Sombekke 9758 1029
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PARISH OFFICE: 9758 1029
Monday to Friday 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
Secretaries: Carole D'Souza, Maree Wilson
Accountant: Sara Luk
Email: office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au

SCHOOLS:
St John the Baptist 9758 1013
Principal: Catherine Mason

St. Joseph's College 9758 2000
Principal: Catherine Livingston

Mater Christi College 9754 6611
Principal: Mary Fitz-Gerald

MASS TIMES:
Saturday 6:00 pm
Sunday 9:00 am, 11:00 am
Tuesday 7.00 pm
Wednesday & Thursday 9.15 am
Friday 11.00 am

RECONCILIATION: Saturdays at 5.15 pm

BAPTISMS:
Either during a weekend Mass or at 12.30pm on the 2nd Sunday of the month. **6 weeks' notice required.** Please refer to our Guidelines for Infant Baptism on our Parish Website. Contact the Parish Office on 9758 1029 or via email at office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au

WEDDINGS:
By appointment, 6 months' notice required. Saturdays or weekdays (not Sundays). Contact the Parish Office on 9758 1029.

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B
1st / 2nd September 2018
YEAR OF YOUTH

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:



Those who we remember at this time:

Ken Collins, Robyn Elliott, Felicia Jayawardena, Angelo Rech, Brian Stackpole, Vincenzo Di Battista, Lucy Leathem, Maria Niehof, Lothar Tepass., Lino Bimbi, Gerry Franken.

The sick:, Tom McMahon, Brigida Mazzone, Wilhelmina Weerden, Daniel Vincent-Smith, Mary Hill, Keith Scutt, Peter Commons, Wilma Neville, Mary Brimelow, Steve Reid, Ron Prince, Patricia Quinn, Charlie Kelly, Bonnie Williams, Kathleen Hatton, Edward Kitain, Scott Warner, Lilian Luiyf, Kayden McDevitt, David Merton, Peter Mitchell, Jemma Du Buisson Perrine, Brock McAvaney, Beryl Turner, Michael Byrne, Ann Jayawardena, Mary Edmunds, Anabelyn Malabed, Miep Wirth, Ethel Arrowsmith, Eillien Patrick, Brendan Kearns, Elsie Johnson, Jill Neville, Maria Iaconis, Bev McNamara, Anthony McNamara, Victoria Lewis, Nicole Moore, Peter Fairhurst, Hans Whitaker, Edward Osborne, Allida Serafin, Barbara Kenny, and Clive Geach.

SICK LIST – If you are aware that any names on the sick list need be removed, please contact the Parish Office on 9758 1029.

GROUP ROSARY SESSION FOR PEACE

Date: 1st Saturday each month at 10.30am
Venue: 37 Lane Road, FTG. All are welcome.
Contact: Pauline Barlow on: 9758 5106

FRIENDSHIP GATHERING Everyone is welcome on **Thursdays between 10am to 1pm** for a chat over a cuppa, join a card game, knit or just sit for a while.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP meet **every Tuesday at 10am** in the Parish Hall a cuppa prior, to the meeting. Praise and worship begins at 10.15am, followed by inspiring teaching and prayer ministry. All are warmly welcome. Enquiries: Judy: 9752 2986 or Andrew: 9755 2443.

MOTHERS' PRAYER We welcome all mothers, grandmothers, spiritual mothers and godmothers, to pray together Tuesday Morning from **9am–10am** For enquiries, please contact the Parish Office.

WELCOME TO ARCHBISHOP COMENSOLI
This Sunday, 2nd September, Fathers' Day, we welcome Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli, who will lead the celebration of the 11am Mass. Please stay back after Mass for a cuppa, and take the opportunity to meet and chat with our new Archbishop.

PRIESTS' RETIREMENT FOUNDATION ANNUAL FATHERS DAY APPEAL will take place at all Masses this weekend. Please support our priests who have served actively and tirelessly in the Archdiocese, and now live in retirement.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST FETE – UPDATE:
Plant Stall: If you're able to provide some plants or seedlings for the stall, please let either the school or parish office know, indicating your name and what you may be able to contribute. Thank you. **Grand Bazaar:** items sought: books, jigsaw puzzles, board games, toys (no soft toys) & kitchenware which can be sold on the Grand Bazaar Stall. Collection days are: Saturday 13th October from 1.30 – 4.30pm & Saturday 20th October from 2.30 – 4pm. **Market Stalls:** Are you interested in having a stall at the Fete? Cost is \$40, with application forms available at the School Office. Spaces are limited so please submit your applications a.s.a.p.!

LECTORS' ROSTER A new roster for lectors is being prepared for October through December. Could those currently on the roster who will be unavailable during this period or need alter the roster, or if anyone would like to read at Mass please contact Stephanie (on 97585497 or smhorgen@gmail.com) before 21st September. You may consider sharing the role by reading just one of the readings. Students in Yr 11 and 12 are welcome to participate in this ministry. Rosters and guidelines will be available for the weekend of the 29th / 30th September.

THE ARCHBISHOP'S 'CATHOLIC MAN BREAKFAST SERIES' Thursday 13th September Archbishop Peter Comensoli will address the topic: "Being a man; a man of God!" Venue: The CQ Club, 113–123 Queen St Melbourne. Cost: \$45. Time 7.00am – 9.00am sharp. Enquiries: Michael Bohan on 0439 172 465 or michael.bohan@menalive.org.au This is an opportunity for men to gather and be encouraged, challenged and inspired in their faith.



Play your part - for more information see the **National Child Protection Week** website: www.napcan.org.au

MGL SISTERS WEEKEND. The MGL Sisters invite interested young women to a weekend of talks, sharing, prayer, sisterhood & more - to help you discern your vocation and to learn a little more about the life of the MGL Sisters. The dates are Saturday 15th / Sunday 16th September at 6 Dunstan Street, North Balwyn. For more details email Melanie at: melanieedwards77@gmail.com

WEDDING - We extend our best wishes to Jessica Petch & Andrew Edwards who will marry here at St John's this coming Friday.



FIRST FRIDAY MASS Friday 7th September at 11am. Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament from 10am. Please stay for a cup of tea/coffee after Mass.

SPARKS OF BEAUTY: SPORT on Monday 3rd September, from 6.30–8.30pm at the Deakin Edge Auditorium, Federation Square, a conversation on the role of sport in building community, celebrating the human spirit and imparting worth – and not just the monetary kind, is planned. Featuring voices from Melbourne's 'other' religion: footy! With special guest speakers Mervyn Keane and Emma Kearney. Cost: \$30 adults, \$15 under 18s, \$100 for a group of five (cost includes dinner and drinks) For bookings go to: www.trybooking.com/XBTH For enquiries contact: Suzanne Hermon at the Archbishop's Office for Evangelisation on 9926 5761 or via email at: evangelisation@cam.org.au

SPIRITUAL LEADERS FORMATION PROGRAM This one-year, part-time program held on Friday mornings in Box Hill is offered to people in various positions of leadership, spiritual formation and outreach ministries. The program, which commences 22 Feb 2019, focuses on personal integration of the theory and practice of a contemplative, discerning approach to pastoral ministry. Applications close 16 Nov 2018. Contact Heart of Life for a brochure and an application form holsc@bigpond.com or phone 9890 1101.

ROSTERS: Mon 3rd Sept. to Sun 9th Sept.	
Flowers	Sue N
Altar Servers	6pm Nicholas D
Linen	Laurel S
Welcomers	6pm Louise D & Peter G 9am Sue & David W & Thelma B 11am: Kath & Andrew & Maria L
Lectors	6pm.Rosina L 9am: Pamela E 11am Sue S
Counters	Peter & Dawn G; George & Genevieve W
Gardening	SEPT: Tom N & Chris M